

I refer you to pp100 and pp289 of your report linked below in which Durham County Council's Education Department suggests that in the 4 primary schools within 2 miles of this development the maximum numbers of pupils on roll over the next 10 years is **789** and that the combined capacity is **1,044** which is reduced to **992** when removing 5% surplus to their capacity. An estimated spare capacity of **203**. Can I ask you as a matter of urgency to please verify and confirm that these numbers are correct?

I suggest from the information that I have gathered below that they are factually incorrect and not a sound basis for this aspect of the planning application to be considered or determined upon. I suggest that there are currently **1,073** on roll and combined capacity is **1,303** which should be reduced to **1,237** when removing 5% surplus to their capacity based on the following information:

	<b>Capacity</b>	<b>On roll</b>	<b>Spare</b>	<b>95% spare</b>	<b>Source of NOR</b>
<b>Bowburn</b> (NOR excl. Nursery)	540	366	174	165	Headteacher
<b>Coxhoe</b>	355	331	24	23	Headteacher
<b>Kelloe</b>	146	121	25	24	Headteacher
<b>West Cornforth</b> information schoolservice.gov.uk (*NOR incl. 52 place nursery)	262*	255*	7	7	Website & get
	210	203			Headteacher
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<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,303</b>	<b>1,073</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>219</b>	
	<b>1,251</b>	<b>1,021</b>			

As you can see, the numbers on roll and capacity supplied by DCC's Education Department are significantly different to the actual numbers on roll by approximately 300?

DCC's forecast maximum numbers of children on roll is 232 too low (even if you assume that 52 of the West Cornforth children are nursery children compared to actual numbers on roll, 1,073-789-52) based on existing children in these schools.

What is very significant is that DCC forecasts that the maximum pupils on roll will be 789 in the next 10 years, and using their numbers above that there is an estimated 203 spare capacity, which is presumed to include all of the additional children from the recent significant developments around Coxhoe and Bowburn? Please confirm what demand has been included in these forecasts for all of the recent planning applications? It is noted that this application alone of 83 properties would lead to 22 extra primary children.

Recent and potential developments at Bowburn and Coxhoe include:

		Potential additional
	children from unbuilt properties	
270	Integra 61 by Persimmon and Bellway (50% built)	45
190	Parkhill by Keepmoat (75% built)	16
150	Bogma Hall Farm by Barratt (75% built)	13
50	Station Road by Persimmon (75% built)	4
55	Limes Phase 3 Barratt (built)	
83	Grange Farm (Gleeson pending)	22
100	Cornforth Lane (Millers pending)	25
<b>898</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>125</b>

**898** in total. On the usual convention of 1 primary school child for every 3 new houses that would produce potential demand of 296 children for 219 or 203 spare places depending on how they are calculated. It is accepted that some of these new additional properties to the area already have children within the schools, but the point being that the DCC estimate above clearly fails to take into account any additional latent demand from these existing developments and is relying on spare places which have already been considered with previous applications. Even just looking at the yet unbuilt properties, these would lead to 125 extra primary school children alone?

In advance of the planning committee can you please provide updated current actual and estimated pupil numbers for each of these schools, and confirm the actual forecast children from each of these developments from their planning applications, and a revised forecast maximum pupils on roll for each of these schools, as this may show that there is not actually any forecast spare capacity and that a Section 106 payment is justifiable for primary school places for this developments. If this cannot be done, should consideration of the application not be postponed until accurate information can be provided by the education department for a sound determination to be made and appropriate contributions sought?

I look forward to hearing from you as soon as possible, and will see you 12 November at the planning committee.

Regards

Stuart Dunn